

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2518

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 0394

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, BY, VT

SUBJ: BURUNDI PROBLEM

REF: STATE 119155: ROME 5728

1. I BRIEFED PAPAL NUNCIO TO BRUUNDI AND RWANDA, MONSIGNOR WILLIAM CAREW (NEWFOUNDLANDER), ON CONTENTS REFTELS AND ON THE VARIOUS US INITIATIVES. HE WAS APPRECIATEIVE AND OFFERED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS (INCIDENTALLY HE HAS NEVER MET MONSIGNOR MONTERISI WHO ASSUMED AFRICAN JOB RECENTLY.)

2. WHILE HE IERSONALLY AND THE VATICAN PAR EXCELLENCE DEPLORED EVENTS IN BURUNDI, REALISTICALLY THERE WAS VERY LITTLE THEY COULD DO. HE READ ME PORTION OF REPORT HE NOW SENDING IN WHICH HE NOTED WELL NIGHO IRRECONCILABLE " VISCERAL" OR " GUT" HATQRED BETWEEN
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THE TWO ETHNIES AND SET FORTH HIS BELIEF THAT THE THOROUGHLY FRIGHTENED TUTSI MINORITY WHO HOLD ALL THE POWER ARE ABSOLUTELY " PSYCHOTIC" WITH RESPEC TO OPPOSED HUTU MAJORITY. HE COMMENTED THAT IRONICALLY THE EXAMPLE AND VERY EXISTENCE OF RWANDA, WHERE BAHUTU WRESTED POWER FROM BATUTSI IN A QNATION OF IDENTICAL BACKGROUND AND CULTURE, CANNOT BUT CONSTANTLY AGGRAVATE THIS CRITICAL SITUATION..

3. CAREW LAMENTED THAT HIS AND VATICAN' S SCOPE OF EFFECTIVE ACTION SEVERELY LIMITED BY OTHER FACTORS AS WELL. VATICAN LOATH TAKE FURTHER INITIATIVES BECAUSE IT WASSERIOUSLY REBUFFED TWICE, ONCE IN LATE 1969 AND AGAIN LAST YEAR. FIRST INSTANCE, POPE HAD WRITTEN MICOMBERO PLEADING THAT LIVES OF 25 MEN CONDEMNED TO DEATH BE SPARED. PRESIDENT DID NOT EVEN ANSWER AND 23 OF THE MEN WERE EXECUTED. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS WHILE IN KIGALI TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS, HE INFORMED BURUNDIAN AMBASSADOR HE COULD HARDLY GO TO BUJUMBURA AND HAND MICOMBERO LETTER OF ACCREDITATION WHEN PRESIDENT HAD NOT EVEN ACKNOWLEDGED HOLY FATHER' S EARLIER LETTER. RESULT WAS MICOMBERO QUICKLY ACKNOWLEDGED POPE' S LETTER SAYING HE HAD HEEDED CLEMENCY PLEA BY SPARING LIVES OF TWO OFD HHE CONDEMNED* SECOND REBUFF WAS LAST YEAR WHEN MICOMBERO REFUSED TO RECEIVE CAREW WHO HAD ASKED FOR AUDIENCE TO PRESENT DIPLOMATIC CORPS DEMARCHE AGAINST FURTHER KILLINGS.

4. ANOTHER VATICAN CONSTRAINT DERIVES FROM NATURE AND QUALITY OF BURUNDIAN CHURCH ITSELF. BISHOP OF BUJUMBURA IS SO TO SPEAK STAUNCH TUTSI AS WELL AS MAN OF GOD AND UNFORTUNATELY NOT VERY EFFECTIVE AT RECONCILIATION. ARCHBISHOP OF GITEGA IS MORE BROAD- MINDED BUT STILL TUTSI AND NOT STRONG REED TO LEAN ON IN THIS SITUATION. BISHOP OF MIYINGA IS HUTU AND SCARED TO DEATH OF STICKING NECK OUT. ONLY WHITE BISHOP IS BISHOP MARTIN OF BURURI (WHITE FATHER). LAST YEAR GRB AND EVEN MANY OF HIS OWN CLERGYMEN SERVED NOTICE ON MARTIN HE HAD BETTER KEEP STILL. CONSEQUENTLY HE WILL SOON RETIRE ALTHOUGH IN CONFIDENTIAL

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EXCELLENT HEALTH. FINALLY, HE NOTED, VATICAN COULD " STAMP AROUND" CONCERNING BURUNDI ONLY AT GRAVE RISK TO CHURCH AND CHURCHMEN THERE.

5. NEVERTHELESS, CAREW, WHO IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND SENSITIVE, WILL INFORM HIMSELF FURTHER ON SITUATION ON RESUMING RESIDENCE BUJUMBURA AFTER

JULY 1, AND WOULD NATURALLY BE DISPOSED TO SUGGEST
OR DO ANYTHING AT ALL THAT MIGHT AMELIORATE THIS
TRAGIC SITUATION. HE APPLAUDS US CONCERN AND
INITIATIVES AND I AM SURE WILL COOPERATE TO FULLEST
WITH EMBASSY BUJUMBURA AS HE HAS IN KIGALI.
CORRIGAN

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